

R E M A R K S

All but Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited Sikai and Tandon patents, while claims 8 and 9 were similarly rejected when the Ang patent was added to the mix. By this response, however, each of the remaining independent claims, Claims 1, 3, and 11, have been amended to stress the patentable distinctions of the present invention over those cited references.

In particular, each of Claims 1, 3, and 11 now pertains to image processing apparatus for “sensing a continuous multiple-chip-extending image and for generating data representing the image”. Also, those claims require that the plurality of sensor chips are “connected to one another and positioned relative to each other so as to collectively receive the continuous multichip-extending-image without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring”. Moreover, those claims now require that the apparatus also includes first and second output lines, connected respectively to the first and second pixel rows of the sensor chips. The output lines facilitate the positioning of the sensor chips to form a continuous image without the insensitive region therebetween by minimizing the number of connections between the pixel rows and the combining circuit. Support for the features added to Claims 1, 3, and 11 is found at least at page 8, line 10 through page 11, line 4 of the Specification.

In contrast, Figure 9 of the principal rejecting reference, the cited Sikai patent, merely shows four CCD image sensors 14-1 through 14-4 connected to a merging circuit 17 through four separate signal lines L to O. Also, Figures 2a and 3 of the cited Tandon patent merely show a single CCD imaging device with two offset rows of photosites 30, 32

on a single CCD integrated circuit chip. Each row is connected to a shift register (42 or 44) whose contents are outputted and combined with each other into a single pulse train (column 2, lines 53-48 and column 3, lines 48-54). However, neither patent discloses sensing and generating data representing a continuous multiple-chip-extending image, nor a plurality of sensor chips positioned to collectively receive this image without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring as required in Claims 1, 3, and 11. In addition, neither patent discloses the concept of connecting all of the first and second pixel rows of a plurality of sensor chips to first and second output lines, required by those amended claims.

Referring more particularly to the rejection of Claim 3, it is noted that lines 14 and 15 of page 3 of the Office Action state that the Tandon patent discloses a plurality of sensor chips to which first and second output lines, a driving circuit, and a combining circuit are attached. In response, Applicant respectfully points out that at column 1, lines 54-56 of the Tandon patent it states that the invention relates to “a high density CCD imaging array with a bilinear array of photosites on a single integrated circuit chip”, and column 5, lines 40 and 41, refers to the advantages of the device shown in Figure 3, and states “...the density of the CCD components on the single integrated circuit can be even greater than before...”. Thus, the Tandon patent merely relates to a single sensor chip, rather than the plurality of sensor chips required by the claims of the present application, including Claim 3, as well as Claims 1 and 11.

Furthermore, the form of the dependent claims has been amended and each of those claims is believed to add additional patentable distinctions over the cited references.

For all of these various reasons it is believed that all of the amended claims are now allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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